

Lieutenant Governor

John Garamendi

On January 8, 2007, John Garamendi became the 46th Lieutenant Governor of California. He brings to the office 32 years of public service and is well positioned to make the office a powerful advocate for families and hard working Californians, and one that tirelessly supports higher education, health care, the environment, and job creation.

During his 14 years as a State Senator and two years in the Assembly, Garamendi chaired the Joint Committee on Science and Technology, the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, and served as the Senate Majority Leader. He authored laws that protected Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake, reformed health care delivery, established emergency medical services, created a work oriented welfare program, revised the State's tax code, and developed a state agenda for economic competitiveness and scientific advancement. Additionally, he initiated a successful ballot proposition that provided \$18 billion for mass transportation and highways and funded senior centers across the State.

In 1991, Garamendi became California's first elected Insurance Commissioner. Harvey Rosenfield, the author of Proposition 103 and a consumer rights advocate, observed that Garamendi's first term in office was "an all-out battle between the insurance industry on one side and Garamendi, on behalf of the voters, on the other side." Rosenfield stated that Garamendi played, "the crucial role...in transforming the dictates of the voters into an estimated \$23 billion of savings in auto insurance alone." During this first term, he produced rebates to consumers of over \$1 billion in excessive premiums, created an aggressive anti fraud police force, and developed a universal health care plan proposal.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton appointed Garamendi as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the number two position in the Department. There, he negotiated the Headwaters Forest Agreement, conducted the Cal-Fed water negotiations, and put an end to the dumping of nuclear wastes in the California Desert. Along with other key department deputies, he worked with Al Gore to prepare the American agenda for the Kyoto Climate Change Conference. He also

advanced the protection of National Parks and negotiated the largest habitat conservation plans in the Western States.

Reelected California's Insurance Commissioner in 2002, he set about rebuilding the Department into the best consumer protection agency in the nation. His 2003 "*Road Map to Reform - Workers' Compensation Insurance*," initiated legislative efforts that ultimately led to a 58% reduction in the cost of claims. His proposals for Homeowners Bill of Rights legislation, and his regulation of rates, added protections for homeowners and reduced premiums by over \$500 million. He re-established an aggressive anti-fraud task force, sponsored legislation to prevent senior insurance scams, and stopped insurance brokers from overcharging business consumers. He developed a comprehensive health care report entitled *Priced Out* that analyzed the crisis in California's health care system and made 43 recommendations for change. In addition, he completed the implementation of Proposition 103 by writing regulations that base premiums principally on driving records, not on ZIP Codes, and he reduced auto rates by more than \$1 billion over his term.

Garamendi is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where he was an all-conference and academic All American football player, and a champion wrestler. Prior to receiving an MBA from Harvard Business School, he and his wife, Patti, were Peace Corps volunteers in Ethiopia. They have six children and nine grandchildren. They live near Sacramento and operate a cattle ranch in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.